



THE VISITOR

May 2019

150th Anniversary Celebration May 5th Christ United Church of Christ Come one, Come All!

“I was glad when they said unto me; Let us go into the house of the Lord.” --Psalm 122:1

We are planning a very special “old fashioned” celebration for our **150th Anniversary on Sunday, May 5, 2019 during our worship service at 10:15 am**. Come and meet our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Michael H. Bone, if you have not already had a chance to greet him.

Directly following the service a whole **congregation photo** will be taken from the balcony with everyone in the sanctuary.

But wait, there's MORE! A home-cooked **meal will be provided** by the anniversary committee for everyone at noon and served downstairs in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall. And it is **FREE!** We are pulling out all the stops! You just need to call Elizabeth in the church office at 330-683-0715. **Please make your reservations A.S.A.P. or no later than May 1st.**

But wait, there's MORE! We will be showing “**The Promised Land**” DVD of the historical play that our congregation performed on our 100th and 125th anniversary celebrations. You might even recognize some of your Christ Church relatives and friends in this notorious play, but they will be twenty-five or fifty years younger.

But wait, there's MORE! We are inviting the Christ UCC ministers who have led us in worship and ministry throughout the years to join us in this celebration.

Many celebratory events will be held throughout the rest of the year. Watch Facebook, The Chat, the newsletter, and the announcement page on Sunday morning for all of the upcoming opportunities!

May Worship

May 5

150th Anniversary Celebration
Sacrament of Communion
Chancel Choir
Carol Choir
SARA Offering
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Coffee Hour

May 12

Rev. David Long-Higgins,
preaching
Chancel Choir
Acts 9:36-43
Coffee Hour

May 19

Sunday School Recognition
Rev. Jacquie McMillan, preaching
Chancel Choir
Rev. 21:1-6
Congregational Mtg: Elections
Third Sunday Annual Cookout

May 26

Rev. Michael Howard, preaching
Chancel Choir
Sr. Grad Recognition
Coffee Hour

Sunday School Recognition

On Sunday, May 19, our annual Sunday School Recognition will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be provided. Sunday school teachers, Kid's Club volunteers, Youth Fellowship volunteers, and acolytes will be recognized for the time and hard work they gave this year to make our programs so successful. All are welcome to come and help acknowledge these folks who give so selflessly.

From the Pastor's Pen: Faith Formation vs. Christian Education

¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.
(Ephesians 4:11-13)

As you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Consistory in April deputized an ad hoc committee to fill the staff position left vacant when Shirley Weyrauch retired. When it was developed in 1994, the title of that position was "Christian Education Coordinator." But the position title in our Consistory minutes is "Faith Formation & Marketing Staff." While everyone understands what marketing is, you may be wondering why anyone would want to replace "Christian education" with "faith formation." What does that phrase even mean?

Faith formation means the intentional development of persons of faith over entire lifespans. As a society, we tend to think of education primarily as the work of the young. We think of it as being done in classrooms by experts. And we see it – at whatever stage in life – as the passive reception of information: "sit still while I instill."

Faith formation recognizes the broader reality that humans learn their whole life long, in a variety of formal and informal settings, by actively engaging our inner teacher to embrace skillful living. Now I'm packing a lot into these sentences that could be unpacked at leisure, but you get the point. "Christian education" is too limiting and too compromised a term. It limits our understanding of what it means to be fully human and fully Christian. And it's too beholden to the Enlightenment project of improving humanity through good information.

I envision faith formation as the intentional, ongoing process of discovering and using our gifts to equip ourselves and one another for the work God calls us to in Christ. That work is to heal creation, build up community, embody good news of unconditional acceptance, and foster the skillful living that scripture calls wisdom.

Please pray for this ad hoc committee as we seek someone to focus our attention and our intention on this vital function of the body of Christ. Serving together with you,

Pastor Mike

Youth News

Senior Recognition Sunday:

On Sunday, May 26th we will be recognizing our high school seniors during worship. A letter to those seniors was sent home in the mail. If for some reason you did not receive a letter please let Lisa know.

We would also like to celebrate our members in the congregation on their college graduations. If you know of anyone who graduated college in the last year, please let Lisa know. We would like to recognize their accomplishment in the bulletin on the 26th.

May Special Offering SARA

On Sunday, May 5, we will be collecting our annual SARA (Sharing America's Resources Abroad) offering. SARA is an ecumenical medical and humanitarian relief organization operating around the world. Its mission is to offer medical assistance to improve the well-being of poor people in different parts of the world. Christ Church has been involved in supporting SARA since 2002. Dr. Szilagyi, who is the founder of SARA has been at Christ Church a number of times. Christ Church has a long-standing relationship to both Dr. Szilagyi, his wife, and SARA.

Over the years our church has faithfully supported SARA and contributed to the salaries of the Christian Doctors Association as well as the Bethel-Hofer Clinic in Vilok, Ukraine. These doctors have been able to come to the United States and get extensive training that enables them to save lives. Their salary is around \$2,000 a year.

I spoke to SARA representative, Marty Seigel, last week. Marty has traveled 19 times to the Ukraine to volunteer her Occupational Therapy skills on the children in the clinics. I asked her for specific needs that we could help purchase through our offering. The greatest need is money for medicine (especially for the children with epilepsy), money to purchase a new boiler for the main hospital, clothing for young girls, and money to purchase eyeglasses.

This mission is a solid tradition here at Christ Church. We continue to help our brothers and sisters who are in need. Thank you for your long-term commitment to this important and life-saving mission.

Suzanne Jelinek



Vacation Bible School

Youth age preschool through 4th grade will go "To Mars and Beyond" at this year's **Vacation Bible School being held July 15-17.** Mark your calendars now for three nights of fun, as we learn to "go beyond with faith, boldness, and kindness!" Like last year, a kid friendly dinner will be served beforehand to help with hectic evening schedules. **Planning is underway, and we are in need of volunteers.** There are a variety of ways in which we can use your help! If you are interested, please see Elizabeth Wallace or Jennifer Howell.

Parade Float & Candy

VBS coming up in July and once again we are entering a float for the parade. **We need lots and lots and lots of candy. So we are starting our candy drive early.** There is a BIG Candy collection box in the gathering area. We went thru over 600 lbs. of candy last year. If you would like to make a monetary donation...we will take that too. **We will be starting the construction on the float soon.** If you would like to volunteer, see Valerie Holderman. Guaranteed – this year's float will be out of this world!!!

Thank You

Thank you to the prayer chain and ICU teams, and the congregation for the prayers and cards while I was hospitalized. I am now home and recuperating.

Sincerely, John Beswetherick

DEACONESSES OBSOLETE: DISBANDED, SOLD

No, not really... but going forward the Deaconesses will be DBA (doing business as) CARE VISITORS.

So who are these CARE VISITORS? Christ Church MEN and WOMEN who serve by visiting those unable to attend or participate in church activities – mainly due to age or illness. CARE VISITORS deliver bulletins and service recordings during their friendly, brief rounds. Their commitment, while expanding the ministry of our church, is only a few hours (at their convenience) every couple of months.

We are in need of more CARE VISITORS. If you can serve in this important ministry, contact the church office. ALL are welcome and appreciated who respond to the call and serve in this capacity! Thank you!

Hat's Off to Mothers

In honor of all of our mothers, we are asking all ladies to break out the old vintage hat that mom or grandma left you, or dust off the old hat you have not worn for years. Wear them to honor our Mother's on their special day, Sunday, May 12th.

Report of Governance & Ministry Committee

The CUCC Constitution and By-Laws were written over a half a century ago. The language and provisions are antiquated and sexist. Our foundational documents do not reflect the reality of how our Church operates. Past attempts to change sexist mandates and to improve the provisions have not been successful because of the overwhelming nature of the task. Several events over the past several years have reinforced the need to address these concerns over our church governance documents: the Reider Retreat focus on visioning and the Church's future; the Report of the Center for Progressive Renewal; the ongoing work of the Bridging Team; the information gathered through the Association's Vitality Days; and the increasing frustrations of Consistory leadership with current governance issues.

The Governance & Ministry Committee began work in Spring of 2018. We identified and contacted Regional UCC churches who had recently gone through revisions of their constitutions. The Association recommended use of the book, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, by Rev. Dan Hotchkiss, formerly a senior consultant for the Alban Institute. When Pastor Bone arrived last fall, the Committee was pleased to learn that not only was he familiar with the Hotchkiss book, but he had taught a class on the book and on governance processes.

The Committee is currently engaged in an information gathering phase. We have conducted interviews of regional churches about their experiences with the process. We have interviewed local current and past CUCC leaders and staff. We will conduct "Listening Sessions" with the Congregation through the summer and early fall. Please make an effort to participate in at least one of these Listening Sessions.

We have given Consistory ongoing reports on the process. The Committee's goal is to provide governance recommendations to Consistory in Winter 2019-2020. It will be Consistory's responsibility to make recommendations of amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws to the Congregation. **No changes to our governing documents can or will be made without a vote of the Congregation.**

Governance & Ministry Committee members are: Mike Finney, Joe Hranko, Lynette Marr, Nick Yeagley, Pastor Bone, and co-chairs Margaret Maupin and Dwaine Hemphill. Please contact any Committee member with questions or input.



Financial Report

March 31, 2019

	Month of Mar. '19	YTD	Last Year
Current Fund			
Income	\$27,739	\$ 68,681	\$ 64,383
Expenses	\$22,024	\$ 68,983	\$ 71,106
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (5,715)	\$ (302)	\$ (6,723)
Benevolent Fund	\$ 3,375	\$ 11,498	\$ 14,870
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$1,051	\$ 2,216	\$ 1,580
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$765	\$ 765	\$ 1,385

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

Consistory Highlights – April Meeting

- Anna Davidson and Linda Shafer are coordinating interest in a mission project involving the making of pillowcase dresses.
- Policy and Personnel will be looking to fill a position for faith development and marketing.
- Worship Committee hosted Maundy Thursday services and the community Good Friday service.
- Bridging Team is working on a visitors desk and directional signs.
- 150th Anniversary Committee has several projects in the works. Bags with a new church logo, a Meditation Garden, a booklet, and a dinner on May 5 are all being planned.
- A recommendation has been made to refer to the deaconesses as Care Visitors.
- Election of officers is scheduled for May 19.



Thank you to all who brought flowers for the Living Cross on Easter morning and to Bill Arnold for bringing in the baby lambs for the kids to enjoy.



May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

5/01 Kehra Feltner	Jillian Thistlethwaite	5/21 Bonnie Thompson	5/30 Priscilla Musser
5/03 Jasmine Clay	5/11 Leah Acker	5/22 Ryan Berkey	Janet Williams
Owen Lacy	5/12 Annaliese Gehres	5/23 Lynn Anderson	5/31 Lori Ayers
5/04 Charles Craft	Lorraine Zimmerman	Parker Duxbury	Alex Phaphouvaninh
Jensen Hostetler	5/13 Brian Shaffer	5/24 Mary Scott	
5/05 Honoree Pouly	5/14 Mary Legan	Tim Schantz	
5/06 Pat Lytle	5/15 Alison Cook	Heather Kohler	
Eric Smith	Sarah Legan	Megan Malcuit	
5/07 Jim Jelinek	Logan Bumgardner	5/26 Ellen Shumney	
Erik McGrew	5/16 Michelle Savchuk	5/27 Brent Shupp	
Isaiah Phaphouvaninh	Jadon Weyrauch	Brooke Musser	
5/08 Vicki Dreher	5/17 Rhonda Weeman	Alaina Yeagley	
Rick Smith	5/18 Tim Musser	5/28 Betsy Wagers	
Seo Conrad	Jake Kohler	Garrett Brest	
Scott Findley	Ken Legan	Zachary Donley	
Haiden Luangraj	5/20 Bob Hershey	5/29 Nadine Landaw	
Haley Thompson			
5/09 Barb Bupp			
Jenna Thistlethwaite			

Anniversaries

5/09 Gary & Joanne Burkey
5/12 Andrew & Geneva Johnson
5/13 David & Barb Bupp
5/18 David & Beth Lammrigh
5/20 David & Heather Stoll
5/23 Mike & Tina Hostetler
5/28 Marv & Nancy Kragt

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			¹ 7:30p Chancel Choir	² National Day of Prayer 5:30p Friendship Meals 7:00p Worship Com.	³	⁴ 9:30a Zumba with Zara
⁵ 150th Anniversary Celebration 9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Worship; Communion 11:30a Parish Nurses—BP's 12:00p Anniversary Dinner 5:30p Search Committee	⁶ 7:00p Spiritual Council	⁷	⁸ 7:30p Chancel Choir	⁹ 5:30p Friendship Meals	¹⁰	¹¹ 9:30a Zumba with Zara FH Reserved
¹² 9:00a Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Coffee Hour	¹³ 7:00p Consistory	¹⁴	¹⁵ 7:30p Chancel Choir	¹⁶ 5:30p Friendship Meals	¹⁷	¹⁸ 9:30a Zumba with Zara
¹⁹ 9:00a Sunday School Recognition 10:15a Worship 11:30a Congregational Mtg. 11:30a Third Sunday Potluck Annual Cookout FH Reserved	²⁰	²¹ 11:30a Golden Singles	²² 7:30p Chancel Choir	²³ 5:30p Friendship Meals 6:00p Graduate Dinner	²⁴	²⁵ 9:30a Zumba with Zara FH Reserved
²⁶ 10:15a Worship; Graduate Recognition 11:30a Coffee Hour	²⁷ Office Closed	²⁸	²⁹ 7:30p Chancel Choir	³⁰ 5:30p Friendship Meals	³¹	